(v) Mechanisation of underground mines by introducing mechanical loadig at the coal pit and transportation of coal by conveyors, being taken up in a large way in several mines.

(v) Invitation of global bids for optimisation of coal production in seven underground mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited by introduction of modern technologies on gain/risk sharing basis.

Lathi charged on workers of Singareni collieries in Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh

2279. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CISF Jawans lathi charged the workers in Mandamarri division of Singareni Collieries in Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, the 9th February, 1997;

(b) the reasons for the clash leading to lathi charge;

(c) the number of workers injured; and

(d) the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the third shift of 9.2.97 two CISF constables on duty found a workman stealing a safari clamp. During the chase, the culprit escaped and another worker not connected with the incident was caught and beaten up by CISF constables. The workmen gathered and beat up one of the constables while the other one escaped. On receiving the information that one of the constables was missing, the Inspector, CISF Unit reached the spot and lathi charged the workmen under the impression that the constable was kidnapped by the workmen.

(c) Eleven workers were injured.

(d) The Inspector and the CISF constable have been placed under suspension as disciplinary proceedings against them is contemplated.

बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में लपंगा कोलियरी में आग

2280. **श्री ज्ञान रंजनः** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में लपंगा कोलियरी में पिछले 5 माह से आग लगी हुई है;

(ख) क्या उक्त कोयला खान में 500 कर्मकार कार्यरत हैं;

(ग) क्या वहां अभी तक कोई मशीन नहीं लगाई गई है;

(घ) यदि उपर्युक्त भागों के उत्तर सकारात्मक हैं तो वहां मशीनें न लगाये जाने हेतु जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार उनके विरुद्ध कोई कार्रवाई करने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) कोल इंडिया लि० (को०इं०लि०) द्वारा प्रस्तुत की गई सूचना के अनुसार, बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में लपंगा कोलियरी में कोई आग विद्यमान नहीं है।

(ख) लपंगा कोलियरी में 581 कामगार कार्यरत हैं।

(ग) लपंगा कोलियरी में पारम्परिक खनन मशीनरी स्थापित की गई है तथा वहां सामान्य रूप से उत्पादन चल रहा है।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

Opening Coal Sector for privatisation

2281. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open coal sector for privatisation if so, the number of proposals received indicating the locations thereof;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Deregulation may lead to hike in coal price" which appeared in the Hindustan